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readings in order to get the desired translation? Col. 3, l. 17: Read *al-sa-šer*(?) and cf. *DSGL*, 228, and *maškadu*. Translate "he is rheumatic(?)." L. 18: Read *šu-an-peš*; cf. *DSGL*, 74 f. L. 23: Cf. *SAI*, 5691, where *un*=*ubartu*.

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### UNGNAD'S SYRIAC GRAMMAR

Teachers and pupils have suffered for years from the lack of a practicable Syriac book for beginners. Brockelmann's *Grammatik* is a mine of information, but it is too scholarly for one who knows nothing about the language. Simplicity is not one of its characteristics. Ungnad has grasped what is needful for the beginner in Syriac,<sup>1</sup> and has, on the basis of a scientific knowledge, put down for the beginner just the things he ought to know at first, without presenting the exceptions or the more detailed information required by scholars.

The exercises in reading are especially commended for their simple sentences, for the marginal references, for the linguistic notes and the mention of roots of weak verbs—always a troublesome riddle to beginners. Facility in the use of the book is increased by the fulness of its paradigms, the completeness of its vocabulary, and the use of English definitions in addition to the German.

We heartily welcome this new piece of apparatus as a boon to teachers and students of this important branch of the Semitic field.

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### A NEW EDITION OF DAVIDSON'S HEBREW GRAMMAR

To many who, like the reviewer, have for years used with beginners in Hebrew Davidson's *Introductory Grammar*, this revised edition<sup>2</sup> is most welcome. The book in the form in which it passed through eighteen editions was for most teachers the most satisfactory book available, but it was at many points obscure to the student, and there were some annoying omissions. This new edition, by one who has had eighteen years' experience with beginners, is largely rewritten throughout. The numbering and order of the sections is the same, and the exercises are much the same, though they have been somewhat expanded and improved. The addition of Proper Names to the exercises helps the beginner greatly. Professor McFadyen has

<sup>1</sup> *Syrische Grammatik*. [Clavis Linguarum Semiticarum, Pars VII.] By Arthur Ungnad. München: Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1913. Pp. viii + 123 + 100. M. 5.50.

<sup>2</sup> *An Introductory Hebrew Grammar*. By the late A. B. Davidson. 19th ed., revised by John Edgar McFadyen. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1914. Pp. xvi + 266.

throughout made the book simpler and clearer. In no part of the work is this more welcome than in the ten introductory sections, where simpler forms of statement and fuller illustrations make the student's pathway much easier. In its new form the book should start upon another long career.

The European war, which has girdled the globe with its blight, has left its mark on this volume. The type for the book was set in Leipzig, though the work was published in Edinburgh. The declaration of war last summer made it impossible to incorporate 56 corrections in the plates, hence there is a long list of errata.

GEORGE A. BARTON

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#### A VOLUME OF TEXTS FROM THE MORGAN LIBRARY

A beautiful volume is Part III of the *Babylonian Collection in the Library of J. Pierpont Morgan*<sup>1</sup> edited by Professor Albert T. Clay and privately printed by the library. Dr. Keiser is Professor Clay's pupil, and the work is done with all the thoroughness and beauty which characterize Professor Clay's own work. The Babylonians were a commercial people. They shipped grain and merchandise from point to point along their rivers and numerous canals. Cattle were also not only sent out to pasture, but shipped in trade from one place to another. In such commerce tags were needed by them as much as by us. They, too, had business offices and archives, where documents were stored, various groups of which needed labels for quick identification. Dr. Keiser, in addition to the publication of 190 of these texts and 67 heliotype reproductions of them, has made an analytical study of this whole class of objects. He finds that bullae or labels were of four kinds: simple labels, tags in the shape of tablets, archive labels, and animal tags. His investigations throw much light upon the various uses to which these objects were put and illuminate an obscure corner of Assyriological research. A number of the labels are translated, and full indices to names and tablets complete this creditable work.

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<sup>1</sup> *Cuneiform Bullae of the Third Millennium B.C.* By Clarence E. Keiser. New York, 1914. Pp. 52 + 50, autographed plates, and 8 heliotype plates.